

Mayor's Order

SUBJECT: Establishment – Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Safety and Juvenile Justice Reform

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Executive Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the District of Columbia pursuant to section 422(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act of 1973, as amended, 87 Stat. 790, Pub. L. No. 93-198, D.C. Code § 1-242(2)(1999 Repl.), it is hereby **ORDERED** that

I. ESTABLISHMENT

There is established in the government of the District of Columbia a Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Safety and Juvenile Justice Reform with the purpose and functions set forth below.

II. PURPOSE

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Safety and Juvenile Justice Reform shall develop strategies that maximize public and private resources in a cross-disciplinary system that ensures youth safety and juvenile justice reform in the District of Columbia. The Commission will make recommendations that, if implemented, will lead to a system that:

- Treats children as children, not as adults.
- Treats children in a humane fashion during all phases of their involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- Addresses youth violence proactively with an aggressive focus on prevention and early intervention.
- Places children in the least restrictive setting that is appropriate.
- Serves children in their own neighborhoods and communities whenever possible and appropriate.
- Addresses the problem of substance abuse in children and youth.
- Recognizes the relationship between child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency and youth violence.
- Places a premium on rehabilitation of children.

- Recognizes that rehabilitation of children is inextricably connected to the well-being and strength of their families.

III. FUNCTIONS

- A. Study youth crime and the juvenile justice system in the District of Columbia and identify the strengths and weaknesses in the City's current approach.
- B. Where possible, identify the causes of poor or ineffective youth crime prevention strategies and the causes of poor or ineffective services in the juvenile justice system.
- C. Review model youth crime prevention and juvenile justice systems across the country.
- D. Based on information collected, develop specific recommendations to reform and improve the District's approach to youth crime prevention and the juvenile justice system.
- E. By September 1, 2001 produce a written report to the Mayor summarizing the Commission's findings and recommendations. In their recommendations, Commission members may consider incorporating in whole or in part the standards of private accrediting bodies and standard-setting organizations.

IV. COMPOSITION

Members shall be appointed by the Mayor based on individual expertise in relevant disciplines and their familiarity with the laws, standards, and services related to youth safety and juvenile justice reform. Attachment A is a list of the appointed Commission members.

The Commission shall have access to a cadre of national and local experts from the public and private sectors to inform their work.

V. TERMS

Members shall serve in their capacity until September 1, 2001.

VI. COMPENSATION

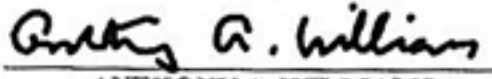
Commission members shall serve without compensation. Expenses of the Commission, when authorized in advance by the Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth & Families, will become obligations against funds designated for that purpose.

VII. ADMINISTRATION

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth & Families and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety & Justice shall provide administrative and staff support for the Commission. Other D.C. Departments and agencies will provide assistance to the Commission upon request.

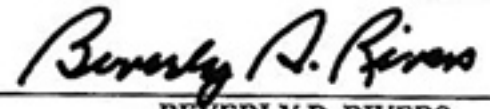
VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall become effective immediately.



ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS
MAYOR

ATTEST:



BEVERLY D. RIVERS
SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA